



City of Santa Clara  
Building Inspection Division  
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## CLOTHES DRYER AND MOISTURE EXHAUST VENTS (Per 2007 CMC)

Moisture exhaust ducts must terminate outside of the building and be equipped with a backdraft damper. Screens are not allowed at the duct termination. It should be noted that a moisture exhaust duct should not be terminated in an attic, even if it is well ventilated, because the moisture vapor may condense on the roof sheathing, rafters or insulation, particularly in cold climates. Exhaust ducts for clothes dryers must not be connected with metal screws or fastening devices which may extend inside the duct. This is to prevent the accumulation of lint, which may create a fire hazard. The best fasteners for use in this application would be blind pop rivets. To avoid the hazards of cross connections, clothes dryer exhaust ducts may not extend into or through ducts or plenums. Ducts must terminate no closer than three (3) feet proximity from windows and doors that open back into the house.



Unless otherwise permitted or required by the listing of the device, and approved by the building official, domestic clothes dryer exhaust ducts are not to exceed a total combined vertical and horizontal length of 14 feet, including two 90-degree elbows. Two feet is to be deducted from the total allowed length for each 90-degree elbow in excess of two.

